



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: May - Teacher of the Year Report

On Campus at OSTC-SE - National Technical Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) is the international leader in providing recognition for excellence in career and technical education. NTHS membership is recognized by business, industry, and education as the hallmark of student achievement and leadership. Today, more than 3,000 schools and colleges are affiliated with the Society, and member schools agree that NTHS encourages higher achievement, cultivates a desire for personal excellence, and helps top students find success in today's highly competitive workplace. At our campus, students who meet the academic grade point average, attendance, and leadership requirements are eligible for consideration for induction. We have a NTHS committee that reviews each student's information packet that includes an essay regarding leadership, citizenship, teamwork skills and career goals along with teacher recommendations. As a member of this committee, it is always a pleasure to learn about these young people's wonderful accomplishments.

Members inducted into our chapter of the NTHS receive a certificate, member pin, diploma seal, decal, and an NTHS graduation tassel and honor cords. These items are presented to all members inducted into the Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast, National Technical Honor Society at an evening ceremony hosted at our campus. I am looking forward to participating in our induction ceremony this May.

Teacher - Business Leader Exchange Program

The Oakland Schools Education Foundation sponsored the first annual Teacher-Business Leader Exchange this spring. The goal of this program is to bring

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education and business closer. The Teacher-Business Leader Exchange program matched teachers with business executives throughout Oakland County. The exchange involved two days total – one day during which the teachers joined a business leader in his/her day-to-day job activities, and another day where the business leader spent a day in the classroom with the teacher. I was partnered with Mr. L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive. I spent a day with him at his office and sat in on several meetings with his directors and finished the day with a tour of the information technology “nerve” center for Oakland County. Through my exchange with Mr. Patterson, we are now arranging a field trip for our Information Technology students to meet with the IT department of Oakland County to learn more about how IT works in government and for the students to explore additional career opportunities.

Mr. Patterson then spent a day in my classroom as a guest lecturer. The topic of his presentation focused on his recent Trade Mission to Italy. His presentation was excellent and the timing of it could not have been better. Several of our students had recently completed their participation in the Global Trade Mission and many of the topics he discussed reinforced what they had learned through their own simulated trade mission experience. This past March, the 12 teachers and 12 business leaders gathered for an evening of sharing of our experiences with one another. Mr. Patterson was very impressed with his time at the campus and he indicated we need to make sure that the education, training, and college opportunities available at the technical campuses do not continue to be the “best kept secret” in Oakland County. This was a very successful exchange program and the goal for next year is to expand the number of teachers and business leaders participating in the program.

Senator Mike Kowall Visit to OSTC-SE

Throughout this school year, we have had the opportunity to host several individuals and groups on campus. We have had the pleasure of State Board of Education members touring our campus as well as members of our legislature. This past month, Senator Mike Kowall spent a half day touring our campus and interacting with our students who were able to explain their career pathway of study along with demonstrating the academic and technical skills they are currently learning at the technical campus.

As MTOY - 2012 NBEA Conference

The National Business Education Association (NBEA) Conference was hosted in Boston, Massachusetts, in early April. I had the wonderful opportunity to present a half day professional development session for over 65 educators along with Professor Mike Bernacchi of the University of Detroit Mercy and David Galbenski, Founder of Lumen Legal and past Chairman of the global Entrepreneurs Organization (EO). The topic of our professional learning session was *Teaching Business and Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century Classroom*. The focus of this session was to help teachers change the way they deliver business education in their classrooms. They were able to explore the ways that business education is

changing the lives of students and were provided with a wealth of free business, marketing, and entrepreneurship curriculum materials to be immediately implemented into their classrooms. The session concluded with a powerful presentation on developing the Entrepreneurial Mindset within their students. It was a very interactive session and I really enjoyed learning what other teachers are doing across the United States as it relates to teaching entrepreneurship!

NBEA Entrepreneurship Editor

We all know that active involvement in our professional organizations is critical to our own personal learning. Over the last several years, I have been very involved in the Michigan Business Education Association (MBEA) as well as the National Business Education Association (NBEA). Recently, I have accepted the position as editor for our entrepreneurship articles that will appear in our *Business Education Forum* which is the professional publication for NBEA membership. I am looking forward to this opportunity because it will allow me to work with entrepreneurs throughout the world who are on the cutting edge of entrepreneurial ideas and economic development.

K-12 Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee

Patty Cantu, Director of Career and Technical Education, recommended me to serve on the K-12 Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee that begins meeting this month and I was happy to accept this position. The mission of our committee is to serve as an advisory board on K-12 entrepreneurship collaborative initiatives throughout the State of Michigan. The vision is to develop the next generation of successful entrepreneurs and leaders by encouraging youth to pursue the creation of new ventures and apply entrepreneurship concepts in their career endeavors. Through a collaboration of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Workforce Development Agency (WDA), and various local/business partners, we are committed to enabling a path toward fulfilling our mission. Finally, our goals are to create and release a K-12 entrepreneurship program catalog for Educational Advisory Groups by July 2012. I am looking forward to serving on this committee as I strongly believe entrepreneurship is the key to continued economic recovery not only in our state but across our nation.